

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WARSAW 04661 031123Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 AF-10 IO-13 ARA-10 ACDA-12 /095 W
-----068401 031131Z /11

O 031056Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5420
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 4661

E.O.#
11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN MOPS PARM PEPR PL US UR CU XWN
SUBJ: QUESTIONS REGARDING CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA

REF: USICA 09797

SUMMARY: POLISH SOURCES, IN AND OUTSIDE THE OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT, HAVE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA, PRIMARILY FROM THE STANDPOINT THAT THEY THREATEN DETENTE, IN WHICH POLAND HAS A MAJOR STAKE. THOUGH OFFICIALLY NATO COUNTRIES ARE BLAMED FOR A COLONIAL "REPENETRATION" OF AFRICA IN CONNECTION WITH THE ZAIRE OPERATION, MANY POLES ARE PRIVATELY CRITICAL OF THE SOVIET UNION FOR ACTING LIKE AN IMPERIAL POWER IN AFRICA GENERALLY. END SUMMARY.

1. ON THE RECORD, POLES NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO CUBANS OR RUSSIANS IN ZAIRE WHILE THERE ARE FORCES OF NATO COUNTRIES. IN DISCUSSING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 WARSAW 04661 031123Z

AFRICAN PROBLEMS GENERALLY, OUR CONTACTS TEND RATHER QUICKLY TO DISMISS DISCUSSION OF CUBANS (ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SOME PRESS ARTICLE PRAISING THE CUBAN ROLE) AND TO MOVE ON TO BIG-POWER INVOLVEMENT. THE ARGUMENT IS SOMETIMES MADE THAT IT IS THE ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS, SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES IN ANGOLA, WHICH PROMPTS USE OF THE CUBANS.

2. DISCUSSION OF THE U.S. POSITION IN AFRICA FOCUSES MORE ON WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NOW RATHER THAN WHAT HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE. WE HAVE HEARD LITTLE DIRECT CRITICISM OF THE U.S. ROLE IN THE ZAIRE OPERATION, WHICH HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED GENERALLY AS A "NATO" ACTION. MANY POLES, HOWEVER, ARE QUITE WORRIED THAT THE U.S. MIGHT REACT FURTHER TO SOVIET AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH A WAY TO JEOPARDIZE SALT AND DETENTE GENERALLY.

3. THE SOVIETS GENERALLY GET LOW MARKS FOR WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN DOING IN AFRICA. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT, BESIDES PERSONS NOT CONNECTED WITH THE OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT, SOME POLISH OFFICIALS ALSO HAVE BEEN AT LEAST IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF SOVIET ACTIONS IN AFRICA AND REFUSED TO ASSIGN ALL THE BLAME FOR THE CURRENT SITUATION TO THE WEST. A STRIKING EXAMPLE OCCURRED IN A MEETING MAY 19 BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MARIAN DOBROSIELSKI, DIRECTOR OF THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (A RESEARCH ADJUNCT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY) AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE SEMINAR OF THE U.S. FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE. ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE SOVIET ROLE IN AFRICA, DOBROSIELSKI REPLIED THAT THE USSR, AS A SUPER-POWER, WAS DOING A NUMBER OF THINGS THERE WHICH TROUBLED HIM AND WITH WHICH HE COULD NOT AGREE. HE ADDED THAT SUPERPOWERS HAVE A TENDENCY TO ACT AT TIMES IN WAYS INCONSISTENT WITH THEIR PROFESSED IDEOLOGY. CERTAIN OTHER OFFICIALS AND ESTABLISHMENT JOURNALISTS HAVE ALSO INDICATED DISQUIET OVER SOVIET BEHAVIOR.

4. WITH THEIR OVERRIDING STAKE IN DETENTE, WHAT THE POLES WANT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 WARSAW 04661 031123Z

ABOVE ALL IS FOR THE UNITED STATES TO CARRY ON THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS TO CONCLUSION. THEY DO NOT WANT THE UNITED STATES TO DO ANYTHING IN AFRICA WHICH WOULD DISTURB THAT PROCESS. THERE IS GENUINE APPREHENSION THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT REACT SO STRONGLY TO AFRICAN EVENTS THAT EAST-WEST RELATIONS WOULD MOVE BACKWARDS TOWARD ANOTHER COLD WAR ERA. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD COMMENTS ABOUT ANOTHER VIETNAM IN THE MAKING, INDICATING THAT ANY DIRECT OR VISIBLE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA WILL BE MET WITH PROPAGANDA CHARGES ABOUT A NEW VIETNAM-STYLE, RACIAL, COUNTER-REVOLUTION.

5. OBVIOUSLY, WHILE KNOWLEDGEABLE POLES ARE SINCERELY WORRIED ABOUT A GENERAL DETERIORATION OF U.S.- SOVIET RELATIONS, THEIR BASIC CONCERN IS THAT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THEIR FIVE-YEAR EFFORT TO ACHIEVE AN OPENING TO THE WEST AND SIMULTANEOUSLY BRING ABOUT A GREATER DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION.
SCHAUFLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WARSAW04661
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: ///////////////////////////////////////
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780232-1093
Format: TEL
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780698/aaaadgto.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 213ebe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2498308
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUESTIONS REGARDING CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA
TAGS: SOPN, MOPS, PARM, PEPR, PL, US, UR, CU, XA
To: STATE ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/213ebe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014